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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77844

Lionel FOMPERIE, *et al.*

Appln. No.: 10/689,543

Group Art Unit: 1714

Confirmation No.: 9319

Examiner: Katarzyna I. Wyrozebski LEE

Filed: October 21, 2003

For: A NANOCOMPOSITE BASED ON A BRIDGED CLAY, AND A CABLE
COMPRISING SAID COMPOSITE

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the remarks below in response to the Action mailed August 20, 2004.

Claims 12-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Referring to the *Note* at the top of page 2 of the Office Action, an amendment to the first paragraph of the specification concerning the benefit of domestic priority was effected by the Preliminary Amendment filed October 21, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgment of the amendment.

Referring to Section No. 2 at page 2 of the Action, Claims 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,866,645 ("US '645").

Applicants respectfully traverse.

US '645 does not disclose or suggest the claimed process comprising a *bridged* clay, which is a clay *bridged* with a metal compound in order to facilitate intercalation of the organic compound. Instead, US '645 discloses a process for preparing a polymer and a layered inorganic